

“THE ORIGIN OF EVERYTHING”

“THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF CREATION, CORRUPTION AND COVENANT”

PART 26

“FROM THE END OF THE BEGINNING TO THE BEGINNING OF THE END”

“The Hinge of the Book of Genesis and the Hope of a Barren World”

(Genesis 12:1a)

INTRODUCTION:

“Now the Lord said to Abram...”

—Genesis 12:1a

1. CONTEXT: REVISITING THE SETTING, STRUCTURE & SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BOOK

“This is the story of...” (2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12, 19; 36:1; 37:1)

PRIMEVAL HISTORY (1-11)

1. Creation (1-2)
2. Fall (Corruption) (3-5)
3. Flood (Catastrophe) (6-9)
4. Scattering (Confusion) (10-11)

PATRIARCHAL HISTORY (12-50)

1. Abraham (12-23)
2. Isaac (24-26)
3. Jacob (27-36)
4. Joseph (37-50)

THREE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS OR PRESUPPOSITIONS:

1. God is.
2. God created all there is.
3. God has spoken.

FIVE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS:

1. The Question of Origins: Why is there something instead of nothing?
2. The Question of Purpose: Why are we here?
3. The Question of Evil (Suffering): What went wrong?
4. The Question of Solution (Remedy): How can it be fixed?
5. The Question of Consummation (Eschatology): Where is it all headed?

NINE FUNDAMENTAL EVENTS OF REDEMPTIVE HISTORY:

1. Creation (The Beginning of Life)
2. Corruption (The Fall)
3. Catastrophe (The Global Flood)
4. Confusion (The Tower of Babel)
5. Covenants (People of God—Israel)
6. Christ (Incarnation)
7. Cross (Atonement)
8. Church (People of God—Inclusive)
9. Consummation (New Heavens & Earth)

2. CREATION: THE _____ OF _____ AND THE _____ OF _____

“By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
And by the breath of His mouth all their host.

...For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.”

—Psalm 33:6-9

A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF THE CREATOR:

- The focus of the creation narrative is not _____, but _____.
1. We begin to understand something about His **eternality!**
 2. We begin to understand something about His **capability!**
 3. We begin to understand something about His **personality!**
 4. We begin to understand something about His **ontology!**

A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF CREATION:

1. Creation is a **theological** issue, not a **scientific** issue.
2. Creation was a brief series of **monumental, supernatural, instantaneous miracles** that cannot be **explained** by science. But once created, it can be **examined, explored and employed** by science.
3. The earth has been **shaped and reshaped** by **universal and hydraulic** cataclysmic events. The first of these events brought into existence a **mature** creation with the appearance and reality of age.
4. Creation is an issue of Scriptural **authority, veracity and fidelity**. It is the first test of Scripture.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIX DAY DRAMA OF CREATION: (GENESIS 1:3-2:3):

1. There is a **Person** in the drama. Don't miss Him!
2. There is a **perplexity** in the drama. Don't remove it!
3. There is a **purpose** in the drama. Don't rush over it!
4. There is a **pattern** in the drama. Don't ignore it!
5. There is a **polemic** in the drama. Don't overlook it!
6. There is a **progression** in the drama. Don't revise it!

- The present creation, though it clearly, convincingly and continually **declares** the glory of the God, is **cursed, corrupt and crying out** in anticipation of its future deliverance.

3. CORRUPTION: THE _____ OF _____, THE _____ OF _____ AND THE _____ OF _____

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and death spread to all me, because all sinned..."

—Romans 5:12-21

- The Introduction of **Corruption** and **Conflict** come as a consequence of God's **Curse**.
- Paradise Lost - What man briefly enjoyed in the original creation before the Fall—the **unmediated presence of God** and the **unprecedented absence of shame**—was immediately forfeited by man's disobedience.
- We will never understand the ultimate **remedy** that the world needs unless we understand the fundamental **malady** that the world suffers. If the true condition is **misdiagnosed** then it is hopelessly **incurable**.

- But Corruption and Conflict are also accompanied by the extraordinary expression of God's **Compassion**: —the **Postponement** of Full and Final Judgment, the **Provision** of Temporary Covering and Approach to God, and the **Promise** of a Seed and Ultimate Triumph.

“The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more...”

—Romans 5:20

4. COVENANT: THE _____ OF _____, THE _____ OF _____ AND THE _____ OF _____

“I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.”

—Genesis 17:7

“Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”

—Ephesians 2:12

- Covenants form the basis of God's **relationship** with His Creation and especially mankind, providing a **framework** for all of **history**. A proper understanding of this covenantal character of history and the Old Testament is essential in the development of a biblical theology as well as a full understanding of the significance of the coming of Christ and the New Testament.
- The Covenants contained within the Old Testament collection of 39 books provide the **Foundation** (Pentateuch), **Formation** (History), **Aspiration** (Poetry), and the **Expectation** (Prophecy) of God's people.
 - God... **establishes, makes, remembers, and keeps** covenant. (Gen. 6:18; 9:9, 15; Exodus 2:24; Leviticus 26:42; Deuteronomy 7:9; Nehemiah 9:32; Daniel 9:4)
 - Man... **makes, keeps, breaks, forgets, and forsakes** covenant. (Gen. 6:18; 9:9, 15; Ex. 6:4; 19:5; Lev. 26:15; Deut. 29:9; 4:23, 31; 31:15; 2 Kings 17:38)
- God's Covenant with Abraham is **unconditional**, based upon a **promise**, maintained by **faithfulness** and expressed in **sacrificial** commitment.

1A. THREE WORDS FROM THE END OF THE BEGINNING... (GENESIS 10-11)

1B. _____

"Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD **confused** the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD **scattered** them abroad over the face of the whole earth."

—Genesis 11:9

2B. _____

"Two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was **divided**; and his brother's name was Joktan."

—Genesis 10:25

3B. _____

"...Sarai was **barren**; she had no child."

—Genesis 11:27-30

2A. ...ARE REPLACED WITH THREE WORDS IN BEGINNING OF THE END... (GENESIS 12)

1B. _____

"Now the **promises** were spoken to Abraham and to his seed."

"For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a **promise**; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a **promise**."

—Galatians 3:16a, 18

2B. _____

"Abraham **BELIEVED** GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

—Galatians 3:6

"By **faith** Abraham, when he was called, obeyed... not knowing where he was going. By **faith** he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God."

—Hebrews 11:8-10

3B. _____

"And now I am standing trial for the **hope** of the promise made by God to our fathers; the promise to which our twelve tribes **hope** to attain, as they earnestly serve God night and day. And for **this hope**, O King, I am being accused by Jews."

—Acts 26:6, 7

CONCLUSION: